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PRESS RELEASE

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DON KNABE KICKS OFF THE FIRST ANNUAL LA COUNTY PLEDGE TO PREPARE

Los Angeles County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Don Knabe will join The U.S Department of Homeland Security Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnership, a Center of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnership's Deputy Director Dr. Jannah Scott, Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX Acting Deputy Administrator Farley Howell, local faith leaders, and County officials in announcing the 2014 LA County Pledge to Prepare campaign that will take place throughout the County from June 6-8. The campaign will promote emergency preparedness activities with local Houses of Worship and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs).

"We are honored to be partnering with houses of worship and local community organizations to encourage residents to prepare for any type of disaster that may impact our County," said Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Knabe. "Reaching people where they are, in places and with people they trust will be an invaluable addition to our efforts to promote a lifestyle of preparedness across this region."

The Pledge to Prepare participating organizations will provide its congregations or membership the options of participating in one or all of the four disaster preparedness category activities including: **Get Informed:** where attendees can register for Alert LA County, and fill out emergency contact cards; **Get Prepared:** participants can make individual or family disaster kits, and complete and practice an organizational disaster plan; **Get Connected:** Houses of Worship and CBOs can get connected to members through a skills survey, or utilizing social media and/or website preparedness posts; **Get Active:** participants can take disaster preparedness classes, view an active shooter preparedness video or host an American Red Cross preparedness activity.

"Faith-based and community partners are an important part of the whole community, and it is our hope that LA County's Pledge to Prepare campaign reaches and engages these partners. Recognizing that preparedness is a shared responsibility, President Barack Obama signed the Presidential Policy Directive/PPD-8: National Preparedness March 30, 2011," said Deputy Director Scott. "Since then, we have been working with cities and counties across the nation to promote the involvement of everyone, not just the government, in a systematic effort to increase community resilience against all hazards. We encourage everyone to get involved in the LA County Pledge to Prepare campaign as it is important for not only for yourself, but for your family and your community."

The campaign led by the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management is designed to encourage residents to take steps to increase their preparedness. Working with faith-based leaders and community organizations provides additional opportunities for disaster preparedness information to reach residents. For more information on the LA County Pledge to Prepare disaster preparedness campaign or how to register to participate visit <http://lacoa.org/prepare>.

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Los Angeles County residents, renters, and business owners, including persons with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, may call 211 LA County for emergency preparedness information, and other referral services. The toll-free 2-1-1 number is available 24 hours a day and seven days a week. 211 LA County services can also be accessed by visiting <http://211la.org>.



1st Annual Los Angeles County Pledge to Prepare



A weekend event to encourage Houses of Worship and Community Based Organizations to prepare their communities and themselves for disasters.

June 6-8, 2014

Below are some options for participation. Please choose one-or-more.

✓ Get Informed

- Register for Alert LA County at Alert.lacounty.gov
- Prepare Emergency Contact Cards
- Hand out preparedness information

✓ Get Connected

- Post a Preparedness Message on your Social Media and/or Website
- Have your Congregation complete the Emergency Skills Survey

✓ Get Prepared

- Make Individual or Family Disaster Kits
- Complete and practice an Organizational Disaster Plan
- Hand out electrical preparedness information provided by Southern California Edison

✓ Get Active

- Take Disaster Preparedness Classes
- View an Active Shooter Preparedness Video
- Host a Red Cross Preparedness Activity
- Host your own preparedness event

For Questions

E-Mail: pledgetoprepares@gmail.com

For Different Languages and Formats, please call 211 LA County

<http://lacoa.org/prepare>

Los Angeles County Pledge to Prepare partners:

Preparation & Awareness for Community Resiliency in Emergencies & Disasters



FEMA



American Red Cross

PrepareSoCal



An EDISON INTERNATIONAL® Company

L.A. County's Pledge to Prepare

✓ Get Informed:

- **Alert.lacounty.gov**
A mass alert system that will email, text, or call in the event of an emergency or critical situation.
- **Emergency Contact Cards**
Identification cards that individuals will fill out and keep on them to provide first responders with important medical and emergency contact information.
- **Hand out preparedness information**

✓ Get Connected:

- **Social Media/Website Post**
Post a preparedness message on your social media and/or website page.
Go to Ready.gov for examples. To receive updates, "like" *LA County Pledge to Prepare* on Facebook or follow @PledgetoPrepare on Twitter.
- **Emergency Skills Survey**
Survey your congregation to find members with skills that would be helpful during a disaster.

✓ Get Prepared:

- **Individual or Family Disaster Kits**
Create a kit of supplies that would help survivors to sustain themselves for a minimum of 72 hours.
- **Disaster Plan**
Partner with Emergency Network Los Angeles (ENLA) to learn how to create a comprehensive plan for your congregation in order to be prepared in the event of a disaster.
- **Hand out electrical preparedness information provided by Southern California Edison**

✓ Get Active:

- **Red Cross Preparedness Activities**
A Red Cross representative can come to your House of Worship or Community Organization to lead activities on disaster preparedness. Activities available for both adults and children.
- **Disaster Preparedness Classes**
A variety of preparedness classes including:
 - Introduction to Amateur Radio (HAM Radio)
 - FEMA's Simple Preparedness Activities for Everyone Class (FEMA IS-909)
 - Active Shooter Webinar: <http://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness>
- **Host your own preparedness event**